

Packers coach, NCO make success family tradition

By SSgt. Steve Ball
Public affairs

One RAF Lakenheath NCO watched the Superbowl a little more intently this year as his brother helped lead the Green Bay Packers to their first Superbowl win since 1969.

MSgt. Mike Sydney, 48th Security Police Squadron standardization and evaluation NCO, and his brother Harry Sydney, running-back coach for the Green Bay Packers, have both been successful in their careers. Mike, who has been in the Air Force for 14 years, was selected for promotion to master sergeant in 11.5 years of service and Harry just earned his third Superbowl ring.

Mike attributes their success to a good family structure when they were growing up.

"Being military brats we learned discipline way before our time," said Mike, whose father is a retired Army sergeant major. "Attention to detail is something that was instilled in us when we were kids. And it's paid off because

we carry that into every aspect of our lives."

By the time they were five, Mike and his two brothers and two sisters were involved in year-round sports programs.

"We weren't the typical kids on the block," said Mike. "None of us have ever been in trouble with the law, we always did good in school, and sports played a big role in that. My mom was always there to ensure we were ready for our games and attended almost every game from Pop Warner (little league) to the day we went to college.

"I recall one time when we had to go into the hospital so our mom could see us and make sure we were ready for the game the day after my little brother was born. The attention to detail was always there."

Mike said he and his brother Harry are pretty close. They talk on the phone to each other weekly.

"We're always talking coaching strategies," said Mike. "Since I was a defensive back in high school and college and he never played defensive back, I'll give him coaching tips and

make suggestions. He says he takes them back to the team, but I doubt he tells them they were 'his brother's' suggestions.

"I talked with him a few days before the game and he told me they were prepared. So I was pretty confident when I was watching the game. But I have to admit, I was a little nervous when the Patriots were up 14-10 in the first quarter. Fortunately, it all worked out."

Mike hopes to make chief master sergeant while in the Air Force and once retired, hopes to get a chance to coach, too.

"I'm too old to play now," said the 35-year-old. "I am coaching a local British football team (the Milton Keynes Pioneer in the British American Football Association) and really enjoy it. I would live to get the opportunity to do it full time."

Although there's no Superbowl ring on his finger, Mike doesn't feel he's any less successful than his brother.

"We're all successful in what we're doing," said Mike referring to his brothers and sisters. "And we have our parents to thank for that."

Covered Dental's Kevin Moffitt, (32) and teammate Mike Garrett go up for a rebound against William Jones, (15) SPS 1 during intramural action Tuesday night. Although Dental won the game 64-61, the / SPS 1 made a great come back effort after being down 49-16 at the half.



Photo by SrA. Jeff Capenos

Sports shorts

From page 25

Coaches clinics

The youth center sports program sponsors a coaches certification clinic at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 27 and March 3. All coaches must attend. For more information, call Ext. 3180.

Coaches selection

The fitness and sports center needs varsity coaches for men's and women's softball, volleyball, soccer and track and field.

Individuals can complete an application at the center. Call SSgt. Chris Rogers at Ext. 3607 for more information.

2-for-10 special

The aero club offers a two-for-10 special through March. When members fly 10 hours in one month, they get two hours free. Call Ext. 3152 for details.

Liberty Lanes

Liberty Lanes offers a Winter Wonderful 30-game punch card for \$25. The cards are valid until March 31 and may be used any time. Call Ext. 2108 for details.

Youth soccer

People interested in coaching during the RAF Mildenhall youth soccer season should call Gary Vicsik at 89-2990.